

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending and under examination in this application. Applicant has amended claim 1 to meet the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Since Applicant has retained the expression "thermoplastic resin", the observation concerning the lack of antecedent basis in claim 3 is not applicable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and argument, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and favorable action and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward H. Valance (Reg. No. 19,896) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

Appl. No. 09/450,649

required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Edward H. Valance #19896
FOR Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

JAK/EHV/bsh
0020-4633P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 02/12/2004)